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COALVILLE URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL



ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

INCLUDING THE REPORT OF THE

CHIEF PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR

FOR THE YEAR 1956

JUNE 1957

MUNICIPAL OFFICES,
COALVILLE.

COALVILLE URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

A N N U A L R E P O R T

of the

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

Including the Report of the

CHIEF PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR

For the Year 1956

HEALTH AND HOUSING COMMITTEE

at 31st December 1956

Chairman:

Councillor G.A. Peacey

Vice-Chairman:

Councillor Mrs. V.M. Smith

Councillors: G.W.Glover, Mrs. M.A.Griffin, S.H.K.Gurley, J.F.Kemp
and L.A.Robinson.

Ex-officio: Councillor J.R.Willn (Chairman of the Council)
Councillor A.H.Moore (Vice-Chairman of the Council)

PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICERS

Medical:

Andrew Hamilton, M.B., CH.B., D.P.H.
Medical Officer of Health (part-time).

Public Health Inspectors:

H. Hunter, C.R.S.I., M.S.I.A., Chief Public Health Inspector
E.H. Roberts, C.R.S.I., M.S.I.A., Additional Public Health Inspector
D. Allen, C.R.S.I., M.S.I.A., Additional Public Health Inspector

Clerical Staff:

W.K.B. Tracey

Rodent Operator: T. Grew

Public Health Department,
Municipal Offices,
Coalville.

To : The Coalville Urban District Council.

Mr. Chairman and Members of the Council,

I have the honour to present my Annual Report on the health and sanitary condition of the district for the year 1956.

The Report follows the general lines indicated in Circular 19/56, dated 11th December, 1956, from the Ministry of Health.

I am indebted to your Surveyor and Water Engineer for information supplied respecting water supplies, sewerage and public cleansing, incorporated in this Report.

I would thank you, Mr. Chairman and Members of the Council, for your continued courtesy and consideration, and it gives me particular pleasure to express once more my thanks to all the members of the staff of my Department for their help throughout another year. Friendliness and a ready desire to co-operate with each other have made valuable contribution towards the successful conduct of the affairs of the Department.

I have the honour to remain,

Your obedient servant,

Andrew Hamilton.

Medical Officer of Health.

June, 1957.

SECTION A

STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA

Area (in acres)	6,511
Population (1951 census)	25,739
Population (est. middle 1956)	26,000
Number of inhabited houses (end 1956)	7,790
Rateable value (1956)	£244,928
Product of ld rate (1956)	£987

VITAL STATISTICS

Live Births:

	M.	F.	Total.
Legitimate	195	192	387
Illegitimate	<u>5</u>	<u>4</u>	<u>9</u>
	<u>200</u>	<u>196</u>	<u>396</u>

Crude Birth Rate	15.2	per 1,000	population
Adjusted Birth Rate	14.7	"	"
(Adjusted Birth Rate 1955	14.7	"	")
England and Wales 1956	15.7	"	"

Still Births:

	M.	F.	Total
Legitimate	5	4	9
Illegitimate	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>
	<u>5</u>	<u>4</u>	<u>9</u>

Crude Still Birth Rate	22.2	per 1,000	total (live and still) births
Adjusted Still Birth Rate	21.5	"	"
(Adjusted " " " 1955	24.0	"	")
England and Wales 1956	23.0	"	"

Deaths:

	M.	F.	Total.
	142	118	260
Crude Death Rate	10.0	per 1,000	population
Adjusted Death Rate	11.7	"	"
(Adjusted Death Rate 1955	11.0	"	")
England and Wales 1956	11.7	"	"

/Maternal

Maternal Mortality

Total Maternal Mortality per 1,000 live and still births 2.46
England and Wales, 1956 .56

The death attributed to Maternity Mortality was that of a woman who died in 1956 of Cerebral Haemorrhage and High Blood Pressure, the result of Toxaemia of Pregnancy in 1941.

Infantile Mortality

	M.	F.	Total
Legitimate	2	7	9
Illegitimate	<u>1</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>1</u>
	<u>3</u>	<u>7</u>	<u>10</u>

Infantile mortality rate 25.2 per 1,000 live births
" " " (1955) 40.7 " " " "
England and Wales 23.8 " " " "
Legitimate infants per 1,000 legitimate live births 23.2
Illegitimate infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births 111.1

Neo-natal Mortality - Deaths of Infants under 4 weeks

	M.	F.	Total
Legitimate	2	6	8
Illegitimate	<u>1</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>1</u>
	<u>3</u>	<u>6</u>	<u>9</u>

Death rate of Infants under 4 weeks 22.7 per 1,000 live births
" " " " " " " (1955) 25.0 " " " "
England and Wales 1956 16.9 " " " "

SECTION B

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES IN THE AREA

A review of the above was given in a previous Annual Report and there has been no change since then, with the exception that the privately owned nursing home in London Road was again in use during the whole of the year.

Laboratory facilities continue to be available at the Public Health Laboratory, Groby Road, Leicester. During 1956, the following examinations were carried out for your authority

Blood	2
Throat and nose swabs	6
Faeces and urine	269
Sputa	254
Milk	207
Ice-Cream	103
Water	29
Whooping Cough	4
Miscellaneous	<u>12</u>
Total	<u>886</u>

No action was taken during the year under Section 47 of the National Assistance Act, 1948, "One man and one woman found to be living in a derelict building and in need of care and attention were persuaded to enter a County Home.

SECTION C

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA

WATER SUPPLY.

The public water supply for the area is obtained from the new red sandstone measures overlying the coal measures, water being pumped from boreholes and pit shafts sunk into and through these measures respectively. These public supplies are situated at Broom Leys Pumping Station, Holly Hayes Pumping Station, Whitwick Colliery and Ellistown Colliery, and all water from these sources is chlorinated, the Ellistown and Whitwick Colliery supplies also being filtered.

The average daily output from these sources during the year was:-

Broom Leys	...	...	...	193,486 gallons
Holly Hayes	...	...	...	285,325 gallons
Whitwick and Ellistown				
Collieries	...			318,391 gallons

The total quantity of water pumped from the various sources during the year was 291,776,000 gallons a decrease of 6,417,000 gallons compared with 1955

40,948,000 gallons were supplied in bulk to Market Bosworth Rural District Council, a decrease of 1,420,000 gallons on the 1955 figure.

Daily consumption for the Urban area for all purposes averaged 26.4 gallons per head of the population.

Mining subsidence continues to disrupt water supplies by the fracturing of mains and service pipes. Inconvenience and danger to consumers is kept to a minimum by the unselfish attention to faults as they arise by the Water Engineer and his staff.

The required standard of purity for a public water supply was maintained during 1956. 12 samples of raw (untreated) water and 14 of treated water going into supply were submitted for bacteriological examination during the year, with the following results:-

Whitwick Colliery		Ellistown Colliery		Holly Hayes		Broom Leys Pumping Station	
Raw	Treat.	Raw	Treat.	Raw	Treat.	Raw	Treat.
-1	-4	-1	-4	-	-4	-3	-1
+4	+1	+3					

7,746 houses in the area have an internal water supply direct from the public mains, and 7 houses are supplied from standpipes or taps in outbuildings.

37 houses, including some outlying farms, have no water supply from public sources.

Consequent upon the laying of a water main to the Warren Hills area some progress was made in persuading owners to connect their properties and discontinue the use of well water. In 12 cases during the year a piped supply has been substituted for well water and in one case for a standpipe.

We are confident that the remaining properties will be connected to the main in 1957.

The only main extension during the year was one to the Holly Hayes Estate which is being developed by the East Midlands Housing Association.

DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE

The whole of the new outfall sewer from Snarrows Farm to Greenhill Road came into operation early in 1956. The erection of a Pumping Station off Bardon Road was completed at the end of 1956, with the exception of the installation of the pumps which has since been carried out, and at the time of writing the plant has just been put into operation. This pumping plant will pump sewage into the new Northern Outfall at Greenhill and the use of the long line of subsided sewer (Middle Level Sewer) between Bardon Road and Grange Road, Hugglescote, will be discontinued.

The construction of a temporary pumping station at Brooks Lane, Whitwick, was carried out during August and September. The work comprises a concrete sump, together with a Pegson Trash Pump, housed in a concrete hut, to lift sewage a distance of some 200 yards to a point clear of the fault line. This work was occasioned by the effects of mining subsidence which have become progressively worse during the past few years, eventually causing overflowing of sewage on to the highway and adjoining agricultural property.

Apart from Brooks Lane, Whitwick, a number of sewers in the Dorington area, particularly at Ashburton Road, Berry Hills Lane, Townsend Lane and Richmond Road, and also at Ibstock Road, Ellistown, are now badly affected by subsidence, and it is hoped that the proposed new Subsidence Act will have become law before extensive emergency repair work on these sewers has to be carried out.

There was again a considerable increase in the number of visits paid by your inspectors to properties with defective drains. The great majority of these defects had been brought about by mining subsidence. It had been hoped that experiments would have been carried out locally with pitch fibre pipes instead of the usual stoneware ones. They appear to be eminently suitable for use in a mining subsidence area.

PUBLIC CLEANSING AND SALVAGE.

Public cleansing and scavenging are under the control of your Surveyor, to whom I am indebted for the information. These services are provided for the whole of the area. Six motor refuse collection vehicles are employed for this purpose.

Over the greater part of the year the collection of domestic refuse took place at approximately 9 day intervals, although following holiday periods and during inclement weather the collections were not so frequent. Pail closets were emptied weekly. The disposal of refuse is by controlled tipping at Silver Street, Whitwick, and Ashby Road, Coalville.

A separate weekly collection of waste paper and cardboard salvage is made from shops, factories and offices.

The collection and disposal of trade refuse is also carried out by your Council. In the cases of properties with a rateable value of £75 or under, 1 free bin is allowed per week, and for properties over £75 rateable value, 2 free bins per week. All additional bins are charged at 6d each, quantities in excess being charged on a "cost plus" basis.

Applications for cesspool cleansing services are referred to a neighbouring Authority or to a private contractor for the use - on a direct re-chargeable basis - of their Gully and Cesspool Emptyer.

The amount of refuse collected and disposed of during the year was estimated as:-

Dustbins	12,562 tons
Ashpits, middens and pails	387 tons
Market	106 tons

SECTION F

PREVALENCE OF, AND CONTROL OVER, INFECTIOUS DISEASES

The following tables show the total notifications after correction under age groups, and the deaths from infectious diseases.

NOTIFICATIONS

Age	Scarlet Fever		Whooping Cough		Acute Paralytic		Polio Non-paralytic		Measles		Diphtheria		Dysentery		Meningococcal Infection	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
Under 1 year			1	1					3	3						
1-2 yrs		1	1						5	6			1	1		
2-3 yrs		1		4					6	7						
3-4 yrs	1	2	4	2					7	5				1		
4-5 yrs	3	2	3						5	5			1			
5-9 yrs	6	8	4	4					22	15			1	1		
10-14 yrs	1									1				1		
15-24 yrs	2	1											1	2		
25 and over													2	6		
Total	13	15	13	11					48	42			6	12		
	28		24						90				18			

/Notifications cont'd.

Age	Acute Pneumonia		Smallpox		Acute Encephal- itis				Enteric or Typhoid Fever		Paratyphoid Fever		Erysipelas		Food Poisoning		Puerperal Pyrexia		Ophthalmia Neonatorum	
					Infective Post Infectious															
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F			M	F
Under 5 years	1	2																		
5 - 14	1	1																		
15 - 44	3	3													2	1				
45 - 64	11	5																		
65 +	2	2																		
Total	18	13													2	1				
	31														3					

It might be of interest to give details of the three cases of food poisoning shown in the above table.

Case No.1. The patient suffered from nausea, vomiting, slight abdominal pains and diarrhoea. Examination of faeces specimens revealed the presence of an unusual salmonella organism which was later identified as salmonella panama. Both the patients husband and their young child excreted the same organism as also did an alsatian dog owned by the family. The agent causing the outbreak was not discovered but at times it was thought that the dog might have been the cause of the infection.

Case No.2. This appeared to be a simple case of bad food storage in the home. Bacon was boiled and left unprotected from flies in a warm and humid atmosphere and eaten about 4 days later. It was significant that the only members of the household to suffer any symptoms of food poisoning were those who consumed the boiled bacon.

Case No.3. The notification of the case was received some 5 days after it was alleged that the patient had eaten a mouldy meat pie. We were not successful in obtaining a sample of the food due to the elapse of time. The meat pies in question were manufactured under proper conditions but some were held by the purchaser for 6 days before being consumed by the patient.

It will be readily seen that in two of these cases there was great negligence in the way food was dealt with and an entire lack of appreciation of the fundamentals of food storage.

DEATHS

	Total	Under 1 year	1-	2-	3-	4-	5-	10-	15-	20-	35-	45-	65+
Scarlet Fever													
Diphtheria													
Pneumonia	11	1									1	1	8
Cerebro-Spinal Fever													
Whooping Cough													
Measles													

DIPHTHERIA

According to the return sent annually by Dr. Gibson, County Medical Officer of Health, the number of children immunised during the year was as follows:- Under 5 years 296, 5 to 14 years 8, a total of 304 whilst boosting injections were given to 234 children.

The following table shows the numbers immunised during the past 10 years.

Year.	-4.	5-14.	Total.	Boosters.
1946	443	16	459	4
1947	467	9	478	16
1948	377	9	386	96
1949	412	9	421	138
1950	339	27	366	169
1951	333	29	362	285
1952	323	8	331	231
1953	300	4	304	336
1954	289	9	298	268
1955	290	12	302	240
1956	296	8	304	234

No cases of diphtheria have been notified since 1949, but it is still most important that children should be immunised against the disease at the appropriate ages.

During the year the incidence of infectious disease generally has been on a low level. Much interest and thought have been directed by the public to vaccination against poliomyelitis, and a start was made by the staff of the County Medical Officer of Health on immunising certain children born between 1947 and 1954. The chief question which has exercised the minds of parents was "Is it safe?", to which the reply must be that the vaccine is as safe as any biological product can be. It is expected that during 1957 supplies of the vaccine will increase, and that it will be possible for general practitioners to secure supplies for their own patients. Those children born between 1947 and 1954 and whom it was not found possible to vaccinate in 1956 will have priority, and in due course facilities will be extended to younger children and to those born between 1947 and 1954 for whom requests for treatment had not previously been received.

TUBERCULOSIS.

Particulars of new cases of tuberculosis, and deaths from the disease during the year :

Age	New Cases						Deaths					
	Resp.		Meninges & C.N.S.		Other		Resp.		Meninges & C.N.S.		Other	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
Under 5												
5-14	1											
15-24	3	5										
25-44	2	2					2	1				
45-64	2						1	1				
65+								1				
Total	8	7					3	3				

The death rate from respiratory tuberculosis is .23 per 1,000 of the population, compared with that for England and Wales - .109.

Although the figure given is less favourable than last year so far as Coalville is concerned, the remarks then made by me still hold good.

During the autumn the Mass Radiography Unit visited Coalville, and the Organising Secretary has kindly supplied some information as to the numbers x-rayed. The sessions, of course, were open to the public generally, but so far as school children were concerned, only those aged 13 years and over were offered facilities. An x-ray survey was carried out at the collieries in the area as well, but the figures relating thereto are not included in those given below.

The total number of miniatures was 3577, made up of 1357 males and 2220 females. 436 persons were recalled for large films (170 males and 266 females), and 99 for examination at clinics (52 males and 47 females). By the end of the year it had not been possible to furnish any details of the number of cases of tuberculosis found, as investigations were then incomplete. The low number of men attending public sessions is, no doubt, accounted for by the facilities offered at the various pits.

Mr. Lee, the Organising Secretary, states that, "in the fortnight the Unit was operating, a reasonable result was obtained. The factories in the main co-operated fairly well, and one might say that, in comparing it with other districts, the response was on an average."

INFANTILE MORTALITY

During 1956, 10 deaths of infants under 1 year were registered. This gives an infantile mortality rate of 25.2, a substantial reduction on last year's figure of 40, and one which compares favourably with the rate for England and Wales (23.8) which, incidentally, is the lowest ever recorded in this country. Our own figure is the second lowest recorded in this district, the lowest (24) being in 1951.

Not one of the infants concerned died at home, and all but one were less than four weeks old. One died at one hour, one at two hours, one at eight hours, three at one day, one at two days, one at six days, and one at two weeks. Prematurity again figured prominently as a cause or as a contributory cause of death, as did congenital malformations and causes associated with child-birth and labour. The tenth death was that of an infant two months old, the cause of death being gastro-enteritis. The neo-natal mortality rate was lower than that recorded last year, but was still substantially above that for the whole country.

At the end of the year, the small privately owned nursing home in London Road, closed down. As you are aware, maternity bed accommodation was available there through an agreement between the owner and the appropriate Hospital Management Committee of the Regional Hospital Board. Its closure will inflict great hardship on mothers who might reasonably have expected to be accepted for admission for their confinement, and there is no doubt that the provision of maternity bed accommodation in Coalville is the outstanding Health Service need of this district at this moment.

Table showing causes of Deaths and
sex distribution of Deaths in 1956.

<u>CAUSE OF DEATH</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>M</u>	<u>F</u>
Tuberculosis, respiratory	6	3	3
Tuberculosis, other			
Syphilitic disease	1	1	
Diphtheria			
Whooping Cough			
Meningococcal infections			
Acute Poliomyelitis			
Measles			
Other infective and parasitic diseases			
Malignant neoplasm, stomach	4	2	2
Malignant neoplasm, lung, bronchus	7	5	2
Malignant neoplasm, breast	8		8
Malignant neoplasm, uterus	1		1
Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms	11	8	3
Leukaemia, aleukaemia	2	1	1
Diabetes	5	1	4
Vascular lesions of nervous system	48	21	27
Coronary disease, angina	28	20	8
Hypertension with heart disease	3	2	1
Other heart disease	34	16	18
Other circulatory disease	17	11	6
Influenza			
Pneumonia	11	6	5
Bronchitis	14	13	1
Other diseases of respiratory system	5	4	1
Ulcer of stomach and duodenum	3	2	1
Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea	1		1
Nephritis and nephrosis	4	2	2
Hyperplasia of prostate	3	3	
Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion	1		1
Congenital malformations	2		2
Other defined and ill-defined diseases	32	16	16
Motor vehicle accidents			
All other accidents	6	4	2
Suicide	3	1	2
Homicide and operations of war			
ALL CAUSES	260	142	118

The age and sex distribution of the deaths is given below:-

	<u>Males</u>	<u>Females</u>	<u>Total</u>
Under 1	3	7	10
1 - 4			
5 - 9			
10 - 14			
15 - 19			
20 - 24	1	3	4
25 - 29			
30 - 34	2	1	3
35 - 39	2	2	4
40 - 44	5	2	7
45 - 49	4	4	8
50 - 54	5	6	11
55 - 59	10	5	15
60 - 64	18	9	27
65 - 69	17	12	29
70 - 74	25	17	42
75 - 79	15	18	33
80 - 84	19	13	32
85 - 89	13	15	28
90 +	3	4	7
	<u>142</u>	<u>118</u>	<u>260</u>

It will be observed that, of the 260 deaths registered, 142 were of persons over 70 years.

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE CHIEF PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR

To the Chairman and Members of the
Coalville Urban District Council.

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

It gives me great pleasure to submit to you my report on the work carried out by your Public Health Inspectors during the year 1956.

This was a year of some consequence. New Food Hygiene Regulations, a Clean Air Act, new legislation relating to housing subsidies and an Act to give compensation to the owners of certain condemned houses. All this legislation is of vital importance to the general public and when fully implemented will have far reaching effects.

Implementation is, of course, a very great problem and one which is common to so many local authorities. Not only is this due to the shortage of public health inspectors but to the basis upon which inspectors are employed. The old accepted standards of one inspector for 10,000 of the population and later one for 8,000 are now quite unrealistic in view of the many additional duties which have to be performed.

Routine work such as meat inspection takes up a considerable part of the time of your inspectors and when one adds to this the hours spent on drainage testing, repair and improvement brought about by means of subsidence, one wonders where the time can be found to carry out essential surveys for housing, clean food and atmospheric pollution. Thus it is that our desire to really expand in these fields has to be curtailed and our activities confined to the more immediate problems. By these few remarks it should not be inferred that no progress has been made. One has only to browse through the body of the report to see that in spite of the difficulties there has been some improvement in various matters which are our daily concern.

This work is only possible by virtue of the loyalty of your staff for which I am most grateful, by the advice and assistance of Dr. Hamilton and by the continued co-operation and understanding of the members and officers of the Council.

I am,

Your obedient servant,



Chief Public Health Inspector.

Municipal Offices,
Coalville,
June, 1957.

SANITARY ACCOMMODATION

The sanitary accommodation in the Urban area at the end of 1956 was made up as follows :-

8863	-	water closets
7	-	privies in sewered areas
28	-	privies in areas at present unsewered
7	-	pails in sewered areas
110	-	pails in areas at present unsewered
5	-	middens in sewered areas
17	-	middens in areas at present unsewered
6	-	dry ashpits
4	-	chemical closets in sewered areas
11	-	chemical closets in areas at present unsewered

During the year the number of privies and pails was reduced by 6, leaving 14 which could be drained into a public sewer. In accordance with your policy £15 has been contributed towards the cost of each of the conversions.

Table showing the reduction in the number of pails
and privies in the District since 1946.

<u>At 31st Dec</u>	<u>Sewered areas</u>		<u>Unsewered areas</u>	
	<u>Privies</u>	<u>Pails</u>	<u>Privies</u>	<u>Pails</u>
1946	94	94	136	154
1947	88	94	135	156
1948	153	100	46	151
1949	139	88	42	137
1950	122	74	36	125
1951	71	60	36	122
1952	27	39	34	121
1953	25	27	34	120
1954	14	9	34	117
1955	12	8	28	113
1956	7	7	28	110

As previously reported, the Council have adopted Section 75(3) of the Public Health Act, 1936 and have undertaken to supply and maintain dustbins for the reception of house refuse. The annual charge being 5/- per bin.

The scheme has been in operation since April, 1951 and the following table shows the progress made.

New issues during 1956	535
Replacements during 1956	58
Total number of bins on charge	2416
Total number of replacements	279

SANITARY INSPECTION OF THE AREA.

The particulars given below are for all purposes, including those given elsewhere in this Report, with the exception of rodent extermination.

Total number of complaints received	-	126
-------------------------------------	---	-----

" " notices served:

(a) formal	83
(b) informal	298

" " notices complied with :-

(a) formal	97
(b) informal	321

Inspections in connection with :-

Dwellinghouses	2863
Verminous and dirty premises	1
Drainage works	637
Tents, vans and sheds	38
Water supplies	61
Smoke observations	33
Outworkers, workshops etc.	50
Shops	13
Keeping of animals	14
x Rodent control	55
Refuse storage, collection and disposal	584
Schools	8
Slaughterhouse & meat inspection	1161
Other food premises	776
Bakchouses	21
Dairies	175
Miscellaneous Inspections	496
	<u>6,986</u>

x Not including visits by Rodent Operator.

Additional work was carried out as under :-

Milk samples for T.B. examination	74
" " " Br. Abortus "	151
Ice Cream Samples	103
Water samples by Public Health Inspectors	5
Milk Samples (Methylene Blue and/or Phosphatase test)	125

The number of notices served during the year, together with figures showing the number complied with, are given in the following tables :-

PRELIMINARY

	<u>Housing</u>	<u>Others</u>
Outstanding on 1st January	126	95
Issued during year	110	188
Complied with during year	114	207
Statutory action necessary	-	83
Outstanding on 31st December	122	76

STATUTORY

Outstanding on 1st January	20	20
Issued during year	-	83
Complied with during year	20	77
Outstanding on 31st December	-	26

In no case was it found necessary to institute legal proceedings.

COMMON LODGING HOUSES.

There is now only one common lodging house in your district and this is situated in the City of Dan, Whitwick.

30 beds are provided for male lodgers only but the house has never been full to capacity during the year. The occupants are mainly regulars, there being few if any casual lodgers.

The premises are in poor condition and have been criticised in previous reports.

4,853 "lodger nights" were recorded during the year, an average of 13.3 lodgers per night, all males of full age. The figure for 1955 was 6,119. No cases of infectious disease were reported during the year.

TENTS, VANS AND SHEDS

During the year eight licences were issued authorising the use of moveable dwellings on seven different sites under Section 269 of the Public Health Act, 1936. These premises were maintained in fair condition.

We continue to have trouble with this question of the caravan dweller, a trouble which is intensified by the lack of a licenced site to which they can be directed.

I look forward to the time when such a site is laid down in the district for any problems which it did create would not be so difficult as the ones we face from day to day.

HOUSES LET IN LODGINGS.

Two houses have been let in lodgings during the year and have been inspected on frequent occasions, but at the end of the year only one was in use. No case of overcrowding was found at these premises.

OFFENSIVE TRADES.

There are no offensive trades in the area.

SWIMMING BATHS AND POOLS.

There are no privately owned swimming baths or pools in the area for public use. The Council's swimming baths were open to the public from 31st March to 10th December, 1956.

Daily tests of the water for chlorine residual and alkalinity were made and bacteriological examinations were satisfactory.

SCHOOLS.

The sanitary condition of the more modern schools in your area is satisfactory but in a few cases where the premises are old they leave something to be desired. One school in an unsewered part of the district still has conservancy type closet accommodation.

It was not necessary to close any schools on account of infectious disease nor was in any school disinfection carried out.

FACTORIES ACT, 1937 and 1948.

The following tables are similar to those supplied to the Ministry of Labour and National Service and give details of inspections of factories and of defects found:-

<u>TABLE 1</u>		Number on Register	Number of		
			Inspections	Written Notices	Prosecutions
(i)	Factories in which Sections 1,2,3,4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities	6	4	-	-
(ii)	Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	77	24	2	-
(iii)	Other premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding outworkers' premises).	7	2	-	-
Total		90	33	2	-

CASES IN WHICH DEFECTS WERE FOUND

<u>TABLE 2</u>	Number of cases in which defects were found			
	Found	Remedied	Referred To H.M. Inspector	By H.M. Inspector
Want of Cleanliness (S1)	1	1	-	-
Overcrowding (S2)	-	-	-	-
Unreasonable temperature (S3)	-	-	-	-
Inadequate ventilation (S4)	-	-	-	-
Ineffective drainage of floors (S6)	-	-	-	-
Sanitary Conveniences (S7)				
(a) insufficient	-	-	-	-
(b) unsuitable or defective	1	2	-	-
(c) not separate for sexes	-	-	-	-
Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to outwork)	-	-	-	-
Total	2	3	-	-

The table shown hereunder relates to outworkers and is a copy of the one submitted to the Ministry of Labour and National Service.

	Section 110				Section 111	
	No. of Outworkers in August list. (Sec.110(1)(c))	No. of cases of default in sending lists to Council.	No. of prosecutions for failure to supply lists.	No. of instances of work in unwholesome premises	Notices served	Prosecutions
Wearing Making etc. Apparel	76	-	-	-	-	-
Umbrellas	1	-	-	-	-	-
Stuffed Toys	54	-	-	-	-	-
Total	131	-	-	-	-	-

In no case was exception taken to the condition of outworkers premises.

There were no outbreaks of infectious disease in the homes of outworkers.

ATMOSPHERIC POLLUTION.

As the first appointed day for the purpose of the Clean Air Act, 1956 was the 31st December, 1956 we had no experience of administering its provision in the period under review.

Thus many of the sources of atmospheric pollution are still with us. The continued use of steam locomotives by the National Coal Board and the British Railways is deplored. The only progress during the year in this connection was a promise that some measure of priority would be afforded in the conversion to diesels of the Coal Board's steam locomotives.

The continuous kiln at one of the local brickworks was completed towards the end of the year and will be fully operative in 1957. There will then be a need to decide what should be done with the old round kilns

if some are to be retained. The method of firing will certainly have to be improved and it maybe that the installation of mechanical stokers will be the solution to this old problem.

In one or two instances we were able to persuade occupiers of commercial buildings to change from coal to oil burning furnaces for space heating. It is hoped that as time goes on further conversions to smokeless equipment will take place.

In many cases such commercial establishments can be a greater source of nuisance than the larger industrial chimneys. The chimneys of the former being very often little if any higher than the normal domestic chimney. Thus any smoke which is created can under certain conditions find its way down to street level to the annoyance of passers by. Which, of course, brings us to what is most certainly the greatest cause of atmospheric pollution in this area, namely the domestic chimney. One has only to look down upon the Greenhill area from Warren Hills to realise how much smoke is created by the burning of raw coal on an open grate. The vast majority of houses in that area are provided with fireplaces designed for the efficient burning of smokeless fuel. It is obvious that smokeless fuel is not being used except in a few isolated cases. I believe that the real reason for this is the price of such fuels. Not until smokeless fuel can be made readily available at a competitive price can one expect the average householder to stop using raw coal. Having got plenty of this fuel at a reasonable price we have still the "concessionary coal" hurdle to overcome. This I suppose could be very simple if the miner could be offered smokeless fuel instead of raw coal. On the assumption the nation is serious in its desire for clean air then this is one of the first things to be done, especially in cases where the miner lives in a house already provided with a fireplace capable of burning this type of fuel.

KEEPING OF ANIMALS.

6 inspections of piggeries and stable premises were made during the year. No serious nuisances arose and generally speaking they were found to be kept in fair condition.

RODENT CONTROL.

A full time rodent operator is employed by your Authority under the supervision of the Chief Public Health Inspector, and the district is systematically inspected for infestations. A charge of 5/- per hour plus the cost of the materials is made for the treatment of business premises.

Your Authority's sewage farms, refuse tips and other properties and the banks of streams and brook-courses in the area receive regular attention. Sewer treatments were carried out in March and September.

The following is a summary of the work done :-

No. of premises treated for rats ...	...	256
No. of premises treated for mice ...	...	25
Total number of inspections (including survey) ...	...	3940

There were no major rat infestations during the year.

SECTION D

HOUSING.

Progress continued to be made during the year on the implementation of your 5 years Slum Clearance programme.

In no case did we take action under Section 25 of the Housing Act, 1936, all the houses being dealt with under Section 11 or under the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act. At all times we have in mind the new building programme in order that as far as possible we can coincide the operative date of orders with the completion of the new houses.

Generally speaking I would say that tenants of unfit houses are much more appreciative of the Council's efforts to rehouse them than they were before the last war. They seem much more ready to accept the responsibilities of a modern house with its hot water supply, its fixed bath and its internal toilet facilities in spite of the very great increase in their weekly rent.

We continue to have moderate success with the repair of houses and one sincerely hopes that future legislation relative to rents will secure the more speedy repair of unfit houses by giving a greater incentive to landlords.

There are a number of houses not included in your 5 years Slum Clearance programme which continue to deteriorate because of the failure to carry out repairs. It may be that many of these will have to be included in your future programmes unless more attention is paid to them and drastic repairs carried out.

There appears to be an increased desire on the part of tenants to own their own houses. This is to be applauded provided that their desire does not lead them to become the owners of sub-standard property. The new legislation regarding slum clearance compensation does allow of payment to owner occupiers who live in the house they purchased during the period 1st September, 1939 to 12th December, 1955. During that period houses were very, very scarce and it may be that persons were compelled by the

circumstances then prevailing to purchase houses for their own occupation which under normal conditions they would not have entertained. Those normal conditions I submit now operate. New houses are in fairly good supply and I feel that individuals who contemplate becoming owner occupiers would do well to give very serious consideration to the dangers of purchasing sub-standard houses. In my opinion the price asked is very often unreasonable. Very few, if any, of the older cottages which I have in mind, have a hot water supply, rarely if ever have they got a bath room and in many cases they even share an outside water closet. They share the common approach and the drainage and the soft water cistern with all the consequent complication of who is responsible for the repair of this and how much have I to pay towards that. I must, of course, pay tribute to the "do it yourself" householder who converts the inside of his home into a veritable palace by his new fireplaces, his flushed doors, his plastic surfaced kitchen equipment. It really looks very nice and does him credit, but so often the fabric of the building leaves much to be desired and the panelling of walls only serves to hide the rising dampness brought about by the lack of a damp proof course. Perhaps he would like a bath room but he has nowhere to form it. He has two rooms up and two rooms down and he cannot extend at the rear because he will block all the natural light if he does. So, having made his home look very nice and incidentally spent quite a lot of money in doing it, he still lacks his bath room and his inside toilet and still shares many things with his neighbours.

Catastrophe follows if his enthusiasm has led him to acquire a house already scheduled or ripe for demolition. The only compensation he can expect is that which is awarded to owner occupiers living in 'well maintained' houses. This compensation cannot, of course, give back to him the amount he has laid out on the purchase of his house.

The following table gives details of the actual work done under the Acts during the year.

INSPECTION OF DWELLING HOUSES DURING THE YEAR

(1)	(a) Total number of dwelling houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts)	173
	(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose	662
(2)	(a) Number of dwelling houses (included under sub-head (1) above) which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations 1925 and 1932.	22
	(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose	83
(3)	Number of dwelling houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation.	22

REPAIRS - Informal Action.

Number of unfit or defective houses rendered fit as a result of informal action by the local authority under the Public Health or Housing Acts

202

ACTION UNDER STATUTORY POWERS

(1) Public Health Acts

Number of houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices:

(a) by owners 46

(b) by local authority in default of owners 14

(2) Housing Act, 1936

Number of houses made fit after service of formal notices (Sections 9, 10, 11 and 16)

(a) by owners -

(b) by local authority in default of owners -

DEMOLITION AND CLOSING ORDERS

(1) Housing Act, 1936.

(a) Number of Demolition Orders made 32

(b) Number of Closing Orders made -

(2) Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act, 1953.

(a) Closing Orders made under Section 10(1) 3

(3) Rehousing.

	<u>Houses Demolished</u>	<u>Displaced Persons</u>	<u>Families</u>
(a) Demolition Orders	14	112	31
(b) Closing Orders	-	2	1

HOUSING ACT, 1936 - PART IV - OVERCROWDING

(a) (1) Number of dwellings overcrowded at end of year 3

(2) Number of families dwelling therein 3

(3) Number of persons dwelling therein 26

(b)	Number of new cases of overcrowding reported during year.	-
(c) (1)	Number of cases of overcrowding relieved during year.	1
(2)	Number of persons concerned in such cases	7

The following table shows the defects remedied at houses during the year :-

Roofs repaired or renewed	91
Walls (External) repointed, etc.	39
Wall plaster repaired	82
Floors repaired or renewed	74
Ceiling plaster repaired	73
Windows repaired or renewed	124
Fireplaces repaired or renewed	21
Cooking ranges repaired or renewed	9
Coppers provided or repaired	4
Sinks or wash basins provided	1
Sinks repaired or renewed	8
Sink waste pipe repaired or renewed	12
Interior water supplies provided	12
Repairs to water supplies	24
Rainwater pipes repaired or renewed	37
Eaves guttering repaired or renewed	57
Food stores provided or repaired	1
Sashcords provided	45
Stairs repaired or renewed	10
Doors repaired or renewed	53
Chimney and stacks repaired	65
Yards and passages paved or repaired	16
Dampness abated	70
Handrail fixed in staircases	4
Additional ventilation provided	4
Miscellaneous	12

At the close of the year 852 post-war houses had been completed by your Authority (including 50 pre-fabricated houses), 48 by the East Midlands Housing Association and 432 by private enterprise.

SECTION E

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD

(a) MILK SUPPLY

The following table shows the number of dairies and distributors registered on 31st December, 1956 and the number of inspections made :

	DAIRIES (other than dairy farms) and DISTRIBUTORS (Section 8, Milk & Dairies Regulations, 1949)				
	No. on Register	No. of Inspections	No. of Contraventions		
			Found	Remedied	Outstanding on 31st Dec
Dairies	12	112	-	-	-
Distributors	40	63	-	-	-

The district was included in a Specified Area from the 1st December, 1954 and all milk sold must be heat treated or bear the designation Tuberculin Tested.

The table below gives details of bacteriological sampling of milk during the year.

Designation	No. of Samples	Satisfactory	Unsatisfactory	
			No.	Approx %
Tuberculin Tested	49	43	6	12%
Pasteurised	28	28	-	-
Sterilised	9	9	-	-
Undesignated Prior to Heat Treatment	39	34	5	12%
TOTAL	125	114	11	8%

Whilst the number of samples examined was about 25% more than in 1955 the percentage of unsatisfactory reports went down from 15% to 8%.

From the above Table it will be seen that in no case did a heat treated sample of milk (Pasteurised, Sterilised) fail to pass the statutory test.

It is significant to note however that 12% of the samples of raw Tuberculin Tested and 12% of raw milk prior to heat treatment failed to make the grade.

There is one pasteurising establishment licensed by the County Council in your district and this has been maintained in a satisfactory condition.

There was a further increase in the number of specimens of milk submitted for biological examination, 151 such samples being examined.

8 bulk samples were found to contain brucella abortus. No stoppage notices were served because the whole of the milk from the affected herds was being sent for heat treatment.

In no case was living tubercle bacilli isolated from one of our samples.

<u>Dealers Licences</u>		<u>Supplementary Licences</u>	
Pasteurised	16	Pasteurised	5
Sterilised	10	Sterilised	1
Tuberculin Tested	17	Tuberculin Tested	5

(b) MEAT AND OTHER FOODS.

There are 7 licenced slaughterhouses in your area including one bacon factory.

The following tables give details of the animals inspected, etc. during 1956.

Number of licenced slaughterhouses	7
Animals slaughtered therein	17393
Animals examined therein	17393
Inspections of meat at time of slaughter	1161

DETAILS OF CARCASSES INSPECTED AND CONDEMNATIONS.

TABLE A

	Cattle excl. Cows	Cows	Calves	Lambs & Sheep	Pigs	Horses
Number killed	1232	124	3	3342	12492	NIL
Number inspected	1232	124	3	3342	12492	NIL
<u>All diseases except Tuberculosis</u>						
Whole carcasses condemned	-	-	-	-	3	-
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	648	49	-	205	2514	-
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than Tuberculosis	52.6	39.5	-	6.1	20.1	-
<u>Tuberculosis only</u>						
Whole carcasses condemned	1	1	-	-	1 1	-
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	118	29	-	-	626	-
Percentage of the number inspected affected with Tuber- culosis	9.6	24.2	-	-	5.0	-
<u>Cysticercosis</u>						
Carcase of which some part or organ was con- demned.	3	1	-	-	-	-
Carcase submitted to treatment by refrigera- tion	3	1	-	-	-	-
Generalised and totally condemned	-	-	-	-	-	-

TABLE B

Details of organs condemned and reason for condemnation.

Tubercular Offal etc:-

	Cows	Heifers	Steers	Pigs
Heads and Tongues	12	8	46	527
Pairs of Lungs	26	18	70	5
Mesenteries & Intest.	6	6	9	323
Stomachs	1	-	1	5
Hearts	2	-	3	-
Livers	8	2	25	-
Spleens	4	1	15	7
Skirts	4	-	16	1
Plucks	-	-	-	143

Non-Tubercular Offal etc:-

	Cows	Heifers	Steers	Pigs	Sheep Lambs
Heads and Tongues:					
Abscesses	-	-	3	4	-
Actinomycosis	-	3	15	-	-
Cysticercus Bovis	1	-	3	-	-
Pairs of Lungs:					
Abscesses	3	6	26	-	-
Cysts	-	-	5	-	-
Flukes	2	2	5	-	10
Emphysema	-	-	2	-	-
Parasitic	-	-	2	10	99
Pleurisy	5	5	58	248	7
Pneumonia	-	-	9	2010	36
Livers:					
Abscesses	1	4	40	3	7
Cavernous Angioma	2	-	2	1	-
Cirrhosis	3	-	10	25	-
Cysts	-	-	1	2	4
Flukes	4	8	48	2	21
Necrosis	-	-	-	1	1
Parasitic	-	1	-	173	14
Peritonitis	1	-	2	22	-

Non-Tubercular Offal etc:- (Cont'd)

	Cows	Heifers	Steers	Pigs	Sheep Lambs
Part Livers:-					
Abscesses	3	3	9	-	-
Cavernous Angioma	1	-	-	-	-
Cirrhosis	3	6	32	-	-
Cysts	-	-	1	-	-
Flukes	25	35	375	-	1
Necrosis	-	-	2	-	-
Parasitic	-	-	-	3	-
Peritonitis	3	-	9	-	-
Skirts:-					
Peritonitis	2	1	8	5	-
Spleens:-					
Cysts	-	-	1	-	-
Peritonitis	5	9	83	3	-
Hearts:-					
Pericarditis	-	-	18	221	-
Stomachs:-					
Peritonitis	-	-	4	6	-
Mesenterics & Intest:-					
Cysts	-	-	-	1	-
Peritonitis	-	-	1	10	-
Kidneys:-					
Cystic	-	-	-	37	-
Nephritis	-	-	1	1	-
Plucks:-					
Pleurisy etc	-	-	-	246	-
Udders:-					
Abscesses	3	-	-	-	-

I would draw the attention of the Council to the increased amount of meat being examined by your officers.

The following table shows the number of animals inspected in the town in each year since 1947.

<u>Year</u>	<u>Animals examined</u>
1947	10,335)
1948	11,475) Meat rationing and
1949	15,135) Ministry of Food
1950	17,006) control of slaughtering
1951	15,013) to 30th June, 1954.
1952	18,644)
1953	17,818)
1954	17,721)
1955	12,445
1956	17,393

It will be seen from the above that we are now examining almost as many animals as we did in the peak years of slaughtering control, and what is probably more interesting is the fact that compared with 1955 (the first full year of freedom from control) about 40% more animals have been killed and inspected in the town.

This amount of slaughtering has added much to the duties of your inspectors and resulted in more time having to be spent on this very important branch of our work. In visits alone there has been an increase from 981 in 1955 to 1161 in 1956, whilst the number of visits in 1952, the peak slaughtering year, only amounted to 742.

35 persons were licensed under the Slaughter of Animals Act. There were no contraventions during the year.

The incidence of Tuberculosis showed a reduction from 10.8% to 9.6% in the case of cattle excluding cows. In the case of pigs the percentage affected rose from 4% to 5% and in the case of cows from 19.5% to 24.2%

The weight of meat and offal condemned during the year amounted to 13tons.4cwts.1qtr.18lbs.

In addition the following foods were surrendered and destroyed:-

815 tins Tomatoes	30 lbs Ox Tail
1 tin Soup	24 lbs Frozen liver
7 tins Vegetables	168 lbs Cooked Ham
7 tins Beans	1175 lbs Bacon
393 tins Fruit	286 lbs 4 ozs tinned Meat
3 tins Evaporated Milk	22 lbs Beef
15 tins Fish	13 lbs Pork
4 jars Pickles	12 lbs Sausage
48 Swiss Rolls	14 lbs Boneless Herring
2 jars Jam	36 Savoury Ducks
8 jars Peanut Butter	15 Meat Pies
1 jar Potted Salmon	72 Chocolate Mallowcreams
18 lbs Chocolate Biscuits	16 pkts Sponge cake mixture

DISPOSAL OF UNSOUND FOOD

All meat and offal after condemnation is stained with a green dye to prevent its disposal for human consumption. It is collected by two firms specialising in the recovery of industrial waste and by a local dog breeder who, after sterilisation of the meat, feeds it to his dogs. There is no sale of pet food from these premises nor does this person carry on any food business. A similar system is operated in the case of other unsound foods where their nature allows them to be used for such purposes. When the food is contained in tins the cans are punctured and then conveyed to one of the Council's refuse tips where they are buried under supervision.

FOOD PREMISES

The following table shows the number and types of food premises in your area :-

Bakehouses	6	
Butchers shops	32	
Canteens (works, schools, sports clubs &c)	50	
Cooked meats	12	- Registered under Section 16 Food and Drugs Act, 1955.
Dairies	12	- Registered under Milk & Dairies Regulations 1949-54.
Fish shops including fried fish shops	23	
General food shops	139	
Ice-cream premises	88	- Registered under Section 16 Food and Drugs Act, 1955
Licenced premises and clubs	55	
Restaurants, cafes and snack bars	7	

Under various legislation affecting food shops, stores, food preparation etc. premises, the undermentioned inspections were carried out:-

Butchers Shops	165
Fishmongers and Poulterers	10
Greengrocers and fruiterers	13
Grocers	79
Fried Fish Shops	16
Ice-cream premises	147
Manufacture and preparation of preserved food	42
Restaurants and Dining rooms	120
Food vans and vehicles	20
Public markets and foodstalls	108
Licenced premises	61
Bakehouses	21
Other food premises	19

35 written notices were served as a result of these inspections

Some progress was made in the implementation of the requirements of the Food Hygiene Regulations 1955/6. So much time is, however, taken up by other routine duties that any hope we had to systematically inspect all the food premises for the purpose of the regulations soon came to nought. We therefore started our programme by dealing with premises where cooked meats were prepared, cafes, butchers shops, fried fish shops and the open market. In other words where we thought that the most value would accrue from our efforts.

We have been able to effect a number of improvements and at the close of the year many of the premises we dealt with were approaching the standard laid down. In so far as the open markets are concerned, which as you know are not controlled by the Council, we were able to persuade the owners to provide ablution blocks with hot and cold water over sinks and wash basins for the purpose of personal cleanliness and the washing of equipment used by market traders. The Council also agreed to instal free washing facilities in their public conveniences near the market ground.

Because of our requirements under the Regulations one catering establishment proprietor decided to close down.

We found that with one or two exceptions there is a ready willingness on the part of food handlers to co-operate in this campaign for clean food. People we feel are becoming more conscious of this matter but the public can themselves, if they wish, improve this even more by insisting on a high standard and refusing to patronise the shops which do not conform. We have occasionally of course had our disillusionments. The attention of one assistant in a cake shop was drawn to the use of cake tongs. Her answer was that only the previous day she had been serving cakes with tongs to a lady customer when the customer said "Hurry up, put them in the bag with your fingers not with those things. I want to catch a bus". Comments such as this are only of value if they result in more food being pre-packed. Providing always that the pre-packing is carried out under hygienic conditions. One local limited society has already entered the field of pre-packing of meat - a venture which I sincerely hope will be completely successful and one which I hope will be attempted by many of the other trades in the town. The pre-packing of foodstuffs can only be a success if it is supported by the public. We should all insist on food being presented to us as far as possible untouched by hand and protected from contamination by dust and flies at all stages in its passage from the producer to the consumer. I submit that this can only be achieved by pre-packing.

(c) ICE CREAM.

Under Section 14 of the Food and Drugs Act, 1938, there were registered at the close of the year 87 premises for the sale of ice-cream and 1 for its manufacture and retailing.

The "Standard code of practice" for these premises, adopted by your Authority in 1947, has been in operation throughout the year and has formed the basis on which all new applicants for registration have been dealt with. The "code" also laid down the official requirements for the construction of vehicles used for the sale of ice-cream, for the equipment to be carried and for the observance of hygienic practices by the vendors.

103 samples of ice-cream were submitted for examination during the year. 67 of these were placed in provisional Grade I (Methylene Blue Test), 22 in Grade II, 13 in Grade III and 1 in Grade IV.

(d) ADULTERATION ETC

Your Authority is not responsible for this work, the food adulteration clauses being administered by the County Council.

I N D E X

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